

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-04

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY MEETING OF
SENIOR ADVISERS TO ECE GOVERNMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS

OSLO: FOR MANSFIELD

REF: GENEVA A-349

ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY MEETING IS STILL SEVERAL
WEEKS OFF, WE WILL WISH TO LEARN ASAP FROM ECE SECRETARIAT
(BISHOP) ITS VIEWS CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE
RESULTS THAT IT WOULD HOPE TO SEE FLOW FROM THE SUBJECT
MEETING, BEARING IN MIND THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING
GENERALITIES AND FOCUSING ON FURTHER WELL-DEFINED TASKS
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THAT ECE CAN UNDERTAKE OR SPONSOR. OUR INTERESTS MOST

SPECIFICALLY RELATE TO ITEM NO. 4 OF THE AGENDA AS SET OUT IN REF AIRGRAM, AND MISSION SHOULD SPECIFICALLY POSE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO BISHOP:

1. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE ANSWERS MAY PARTIALLY DEPEND ON SOME PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES NOW UNDERWAY, INCLUDING NORWEGIAN CONFERENCE ON AIR POLLUTION, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW BISHOP BELIEVES "THE DEBATE" ON THE THREE-PRIMARY TOPICS UNDER ITEM NO. 4 MIGHT BEST BE FOCUSED, WHAT TYPES OF ADVANCE PAPERS, IF ANY, HE BELIEVES

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD PREPARE FOR MEETING, WHAT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS UNDER EACH TOPIC HE BELIEVES SHOULD BE COVERED BY PARTICIPANTS, AND WHAT KINDS OF SPECIFIC MANDATES OR DIRECTIONS FOR THE ECE HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEVELOP FROM THE SENIOR ADVISERS AT FORTHCOMING MEETING.

2. FOR OUR PART WE WOULD BE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED IF "THE DEBATE" ON THE THREE MAIN SUBTOPICS (TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION, ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF WATER RESOURCES AND, TIME PERMITTING, THE PROBLEMS OF NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY) TURNED INTO NOTHING MORE THAN GENERALIZED DESCRIPTIONS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, COUPLED WITH SIMPLE STATEMENTS OF PIOUS ACCORD THAT FURTHER WORK NEEDS DOING.

3. IN CONTRAST WE BELIEVE THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD NOW BE DOING SOME ADVANCE THINKING AS TO THE TYPES OF CONCLUSIONS AND PRECISE DIRECTIONS IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGE FROM THE DISCUSSIONS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING SOME NEW AND CONCRETE TASKS THAT COULD BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER ECE SPONSORSHIP.

4. IN THE LATTER REGARD, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ORGANIZE SOME SPECIFIC COLLABORATIVE EAST-WEST ON-GOING PROJECT IN THE FIELD OF TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION THAT CONCEIVABLY COULD REPRESENT AN EXTRAPOLATION OF SOME COLLABORATIVE MONITORING EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN WESTERN EUROPE. WE ASSUME THAT THE CONFERENCE HELD IN NORWAY FROM DECEMBER 3 TO 5 WILL PROVE USEFUL IN CLARIFYING WHETHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS IS FEASIBLE. WE WOULD WELCOME LEARNING THE VIEWS OF NORWEGIAN, DUTCH, SOVIET AND OTHER DELEGATES CONCERNING THE KINDS OF VENTURES THAT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE.

5. WE ALSO ARE QUITE CONCERNED THAT THE DISCUSSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF WATER RESOURCES COULD PROVE TO BE VERY DIFFUSE IN CHARACTER UNLESS WE NOW ATTEMPT, THROUGH ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS, TO GIVE SOME CONCRETE

DIRECTIONS TO THE DISCUSSIONS. AS IN THE CASE OF AIR POLLUTION, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING VIEWS OF BISHOP AND OTHER KEY DELS IN GENEVA AS TO THE NEW CONCRETE DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING SOME POSSIBLE COLLABORATIVE STUDIES ON SOME SPECIFIC TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT THE EAST AND WEST. FINALLY, WE REALIZE THAT DISCUSSIONS ON NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY WILL BE SHAPED BY THE JANUARY 8 TO 10 MEETING OF EXPERTS TO BE HELD IN GENEVA, BUT HERE, TOO, WE ARE HOPEFUL AND ASSUME THAT SECRETARIAT IS NOW GIVING SOME SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO DESIRABLE CONCRETE RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS; DRAWING ON THE RECENT CONSULTATIONS AS REPORTED BY ENV/AC 4/R.1, ETC. FOR

EXAMPLE, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW SECRETARIAT PLANS TO CONDUCT THE REFERRED TO "CASE" STUDIES MENTIONED IN THE DOCUMENTATION, AND WHETHER IT PLANS TO ENCOURAGE THE ADOPTION OF A PILOT-COUNTRY APPROACH IN PURSUING THE ANALYSIS. FYI. DEPT IS CONSULTING WITH JOHN BUSTERUD AND EPA ON SUBJECT IN THE HOPE THAT USG MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON ITS OWN RE SOME OF THESE AREAS. IN THE MEANTIME WE WOULD HOPE MISSION WOULD PRESS THESE POINTS WITH THE SECRETARIAT SINCE WE ARE GENERALLY OF VIEW ECE EFFORTS IN THIS AREA REQUIRE GREATER FOCUS AND BETTER ADVANCED PLANNING. END FYI. KISSINGER

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